

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00351 101505Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CU-02 L-03 H-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01
SP-02 /059 W
-----101514Z 106767 /46

R 100805Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5808
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0351

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR PINS PINT SHUM SF GW WA
SUBJ: PROMINENT GERMAN PROFESSOR DEPORTED SUDDENLY

SUMMARY: PROFESSOR WOLFGANG THOMAS, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE "COLORED" UNIVERSITY OF THE
WESTERN CAPE (UWC) WAS DETAINED BY SECURITY POLICE MARCH 8
AND DEPORTED TO FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY SAME DAY. SAG
HAS MADE NO PUBLIC COMMENT. ONE VIEW HERE IS THAT MOVE
MOST LIKELY CAUSED BY PROFESSOR THOMAS' ACTIVITIES AS MEMBER
OF FINANCIAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE TURNHALLE CONSTITUTIONAL
CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA. END SUMMARY

1. SECURITY POLICE CALLED AT PROFESSOR THOMAS' RESIDENCE
AT 0500 HOURS LOCAL, MARCH 8, WITH DEPORTATION ORDER SIGNED
BY INTERIOR MINISTER CONNIE MULDER DECLARING THOMAS A
PROHIBITED IMMIGRANT. GIVING HIM HOUR AND ONE-HALF TO
DISCUSS FAMILY AND PROFESSIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH HIS WIFE,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00351 101505Z

POLICE TOOK HIM TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS AT 0630 HOURS.
THOMAS WAS ALLOWED TWO PHONE CALLS TO HIS WIFE DURING COURSE
OF THE MORNING BEFORE BEING TAKEN TO AIRPORT AND PUT ON
1430 FLIGHT TO JOHANNESBURG. HE WAS GIVEN
NO OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO WIFE AND
FRIENDS WHO WENT TO AIRPORT IN EFFORT TO SEE HIM OFF.
LATER SAME EVENING HE WAS PUT ON LUFTHANSA FLIGHT

DESTINED FOR FRANKFURT.

2. THOMAS IS GERMAN CITIZEN WHO CAME TO SOUTH AFRICA WITH HIS PARENTS AT AGE 11 IN 1955. HIS FATHER, DR. H. J. THOMAS, RETIRED IN 1973 AS PRODUCTION MANAGER OF SASOL, THE SAG-OWNED COAL, OIL AND GAS CORP. PROFESSOR THOMAS ATTENDED SCHOOL IN THE ORANGE FREE STATE AND OBTAINED DEGREE IN ECONOMICS FROM AFRIKAANS-LANGUAGE UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH. HE LECTURED IN ECONOMICS AT UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH AND AT SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AT UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN. IN AUGUST 1975 HE WAS APPOINTED TO ESTABLISH AND DIRECT NEW INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT UWC AS WELL AS FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH WAS CREATED WITH GRANT FROM ANGLO-AMERICAN CORP. TO CARRY OUT COMMUNITY-ORIENTED RESEARCH AND OTHER PROJECTS. HE WAS ACTIVE MEMBER OF CAPE FLATS COMMITTEE FOR INTERIM ACCOMMODATION, FINANCED BY CHURCH GROUPS, WHICH HAS BEEN IN FOREFRONT OF EFFORTS BY SQUATTERS TO RESIST SAG EVICTION EFFORTS (CAPE TOWN 301 AND A-15). HE HAS BEEN AN OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF SAG POLICIES, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO URBAN PROBLEMS. LAST DECEMBER THOMAS WAS ASKED TO SERVE AS MEMBER OF FINANCIAL COMMITTEE OF TURNHALLE CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF CONFERENCE DECISIONS AND DEVISE FORMULA FOR DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES AMONG GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES (76 PRETORIA 5670). THOMAS HAD RECENTLY TOLD DCM, CONGENOFF THAT COMMITTEE WAS "STACKED" WITH SAG SUPPORTERS AND WAS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO MINIMIZE RESOURCES TO BE CON-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00351 101505Z

TROLLED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WHILE MAXIMIZING DEGREE OF SAG FINANCIAL CONTROL AND INFLUENCE AFTER "INDEPENDENCE." THOMAS SAID HIS EFFORTS TO CHALLENGE AND EXPOSE IMPLICATIONS OF COMMITTEE'S WORK HAD LED TO SEVERAL HEATED CLASHES. THOMAS HAD ACCEPTED NOMINATIONS AS FY-77 INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANTEE AND IN FACT WAS SCHEDULED TO VISIT US WITHIN NEXT MONTH OR SO.

3. PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT GERMAN AMBASSADOR HANS EICK ASKED FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY BRAND FOURIE "YESTERDAY" (MARCH 8) FOR REASONS FOR DEPORTATION. THIS WAS CONFIRMED TO DCM BY COUNSELOR OF GERMAN EMBASSY BOLL WHO SAID FOURIE HAD PROMISED TO INFORM EMBASSY OF REASONS FOR DEPORTATION IN NEAR FUTURE. BOLL ADDED THAT AMBASSADOR EICK HAD REQUESTED DELAY IN DEPORTATION TO GIVE THOMAS TIME TO WIND UP PERSONAL AFFAIRS BUT THIS WAS DENIED. EFFORTS BY RECTOR OF UWC, CI OFFICIALS AND OTHER FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES TO SEEK DELAY WERE ALSO TO NO AVAIL. MATTER WAS RAISED IN PARLIAMENT

BY PROG REF MP RENE DE VILLIERS WHO TOOK UNUSUAL STEP
OF TABLING A QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE IN THE ASSEMBLY AND
TERMED AFFAIR "UTTERLY DEPLORABLE."

4. AS CUSTOMARY IN SUCH CASES, SAG HAS GIVEN NO RPT NO
REASON FOR DEPORTATION. NUMBER OF OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE
IT WAS DUE PRIMARILY TO THOMAS' TOO VIGOROUS EFFORTS IN
THE TURNHALLE FINANCIAL SUBCOMMITTEE. WE INCLINED TO
THINK THAT WAS ONE BUT PROBABLY NOT ONLY FACTOR. ALTHOUGH
FAIRLY MODERATE IN SOME ISSUES (HE OPENLY FAVORED WORK-
ING WITH PRIME MINISTER'S CABINET COUNCIL FOR INDIANS
AND COLOREDS AND WORKED WITH COLORED "MODERATES" TO
FORMULATE PROPOSALS) HE WAS OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF MOST
SAG POLICIES AND HAD BECOME PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN ASSIST-
ING SQUATTERS TO RESIST EVICTION BY SAG (CAPE TOWN 301, A-15).
THOMAS RECENTLY TOLD CONGENOFF HE HAD APPLIED SEVERAL
YEARS EARLIER FOR SA CITIZENSHIP AND HAD BEEN REFUSED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 CAPE T 00351 101505Z

WITH NO REASON GIVEN. AS ARTICULATE AND PERSISTENT
CRITIC, PARTICULARLY AFRIKAANS-EDUCATED ONE, THOMAS
MAY SIMPLY HAVE BECOME TOO MUCH OF AN ANNOYANCE FOR
SAG TO PUT UP WITH ANY LONGER. THAT STILL LEAVES
UNANSWERED, HOWEVER, QUESTION OF WHY MATTER WAS HANDLED
SO ABRUPTLY IN MANNER GUARANTEED TO MAXIMIZE CRITICISM
OF SAG. ON PAST FORM, SEEMS UNLIKELY SAG WILL PROVIDE
THE ANSWER.
BOWDLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAPET00351
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770082-1076
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770375/aaaacnkw.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6ab5d1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3153947
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROMINENT GERMAN PROFESSOR DEPORTED SUDDENLY SUMMARY: PROFESSOR WOLFGANG THOMAS, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE "COLORED" UNIVERSITY
TAGS: PINR, PINS, PINT, SHUM, SF, GE, WA, (THOMAS, WOLFGANG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6ab5d1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009